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Senate

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SENATE SELECT COMMIT- TEE ON INTELLIGENCE AND RULES OF PROCEDURE

Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, I rise to join the Senator from Arizona, Senator GOLDWATER, the distinguished chairman of the Select Committee on Intelligence, in submitting this report of the committee's activities during the 97th Congress.

As vice chairman of the select committee for those 2 years, I believe the report accurately reflects the work done by the committee.

The report is important because it is an opportunity for the Senate and the public to get some sense of the nature of the committee's oversight of the intelligence community. It is also important in that its compilation forces the committee to see where it has been these past 2 years and, implicitly, where it is headed.

We do well to recall the situation in 1976 when the select committee was established. Investigations had revealed that our intelligence agencies abused their authority. In addition, the intelligence community had experienced a 40-percent reduction in personnel in the previous decade. Yet the world was becoming an increasingly dangerous place as the Soviet Union was engaging in an unprecedented military buildup and the Third World presented new challenges to the interests of the United States. Not surprisingly, questions were raised about the ability of the CIA and its sister agencies to supply the President and his advisers the kind of information they need to steer a prudent course for American foreign policy.

During my 6 years on the committee, we have concentrated our efforts on two major tasks. The first of these was to establish effective mechanisms for insuring that the intelligence community stays within the bounds of the law and common decency. The second was to provide the resources necessary for rebuilding our intelligence capabilities. It is to be hoped that the readers of this report will cull from its somewhat cryptic and numerous pages a sense that these tasks are in large part being accomplished.

Mr. President, in 1972, I observed that the public life of our age seems dominated by the unexpected and the unforeseen, while the task of governing seems increasingly that of imposing some measure of order on this less than cosmic chaos. I referred to the task as one of coping—of striving or contending on equal terms with a measure of success. While my remarks then concerned the practice of Government in general, they are entirely applicable to the experience of the Select Committee on Intelligence. I think it can fairly be said that the committee has coped well with the issues it has addressed. But in citing the committee's accomplishments, there is no intent to imply a sense of complacency. Oversight is not a static process. We have laid only the first blocks in the reconstruction of our intelligence community, not the final edifice. We are still a young committee, and during its less than 7 years tenure, there has been a continual effort to identify ways to improve our oversight. This is the spirit in which the members of the committee will continue their work in the 98th Congress.